

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ann R. Klee, Chair, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force  
FROM: Terrence C. Salt, Department of the Interior  
DATE: November 26, 2003  
RE: Request for advice on DOI management issues

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**Background:** In January 2003, the Secretary of the Interior announced her intent to form an advisory committee of stakeholders to advise the Department of the Interior (DOI) on land management issues in South Florida, including South Florida ecosystem restoration issues. This proposal reflects the Secretary's 4 C's philosophy that conservation is best achieved through continued consultation, communication, and collaboration among government agencies and concerned citizens.

The Department anticipates that this committee would be comprised of a geographically diverse and balanced group of stakeholders to include representatives from federal, state, and tribal interests along with representatives from the environmental community, utilities, agriculture, sportsmen, and boaters.

In recognition of the role of the Task Force in facilitating the development of policies that support Everglades restoration, and in light of the Task Force's ability to establish advisory bodies necessary to assist the Task Force in its duties, I request that the Task Force establish this advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations consistent with the purpose and scope presented below.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Everglades Restoration Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) is to assist the Task Force in providing recommendations to the Department of the Interior and its managers on South Florida ecosystem restoration issues affecting the preservation and protection, recreational use, and visitor enjoyment of DOI lands in South Florida.

**Scope of Work:** Initially, the Department is requesting Task Force and Advisory Committee recommendations, consistent with the Department of the Interior's statutory responsibilities, to balance public use and enjoyment with conservation of Interior managed lands in South Florida. Specifically, these recommendations should consider recreational use policies and visitor enjoyment opportunities as they relate to management efforts at Biscayne and Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve, including ongoing general management plan updates, to ensure that public access and use protocols strike the appropriate balance between resource protection and public enjoyment.

### **Membership Recommendations and Charter**

I request the Task Force direct the Task Force Director to develop for Task Force approval at the next Task Force meeting, a proposed Advisory Committee Charter, including membership recommendations, that incorporates the purpose and scope of work described in this proposal.